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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/588,115	05/31/2000	Jueng Gil Lee	CDST-C130-1P	7774

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EXAMINER

ROY, SIKHA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/588,115

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Sikha Roy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 and 47-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The Amendment, filed on June 24, 2002 has been entered and is acknowledged by the Examiner.

The Terminal Disclaimer filed on August 13, 2002 has been entered and is acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20- 24 and 47-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent 5,894,188 to Chakvorty et al. in view of EP 731507 A1 to Takayama.

Regarding claim 20, Chakvorty et al. disclose (column 3 lines 6-15, column 5 lines 40-62, Fig. 1C)) an electrode (cathodic) structure for a flat panel display comprising a metallic layer (aluminum strip) 103 over which a protective layer (cladding layer) 104 is deposited. Mask and etch steps are performed to form the electrode (column 6 lines 8,9 step 213, Fig 2).

Claim 20 differs from Chakvorty et al. in that Chakvorty et al. do not exemplify on metal alloy layer including neodymium having a concentration of between three and six atomic percent in the structure of multilayer electrode.

Takayama in analogous art of electrode materials disclose (page 4 lines 5,6, 10,11,35-38 Table 2 line 14) aluminum-based alloy electrode material. It is noted that the material substantially comprises Al and neodymium (one element selected from a group consisting of rare-earth elements) in an amount of 3 atomic percent. The electrode material thus constructed has high thermal stability, low electrical resistance and fewer occurrences of defects such as hillocks.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the metal layer of the electrode structure of Chakvorty et al. by the metal alloy layer as taught by Takayama for high thermal stability, low electrical resistance and fewer occurrences of defects such as hillocks in the multi-layer electrode.

Regarding claim 21, Takayama discloses (page 4 lines 35-39) Al alloy produced by mixing Nd (neodymium) with aluminum in an amount of 3 atomic percent.

Regarding claim 23, Chakvorty et al. disclose (column 8 lines 19-26) that the refractory metals molybdenum and tungsten which are easy to process, do not interdiffuse with aluminum and make good electrical contact with aluminum conductors and the overlying layers are used as protective (cladding) layer.

Regarding claims 22 and 24 Chakvorty et a. and Takayama disclose the claimed invention except for the limitations of thickness of the metal alloy layer and the protective layer to be approximately 2500°A and 1200°A respectively. Takayama discloses (page 4 line47) Al alloy thin layer together with anodically oxidized film having a thickness of 4000°A or less. The total thickness of the multi-layer electrode as

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claimed in 22 and 24 is approximately 3700°A. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the values of the thickness of the metal alloy layer and protective layer, since discovering an optimum value of a result variable is considered within the skills of the art.

Referring to claim 47, Chakvorty et al. in view of Takayama disclose electrode structure for a flat panel display, the electrode comprising Al-based alloy layer including neodymium in an amount of 3 atomic percent, barrier layer of anodically oxidizing film deposited on the metal alloy layer and a protective (cladding) layer deposited on the anodically oxidized metal alloy layer formed by mask and etch steps.

Claim 48 essentially recites the same limitation as of claim 21 and hence is rejected for the same reason.

Regarding claim 50, Takayama disclose (page 4 lines 35,36) a barrier layer formed by anodically oxidizing the metal-alloy conductor line. It is noted that the anodically oxidized conductor has high dielectric strength and excellent insulating characteristic.

Claim 52 essentially recites the same limitation as of claim 23 and hence is rejected for the same reason.

Regarding claims 49,51 and 53 Chakvorty et a. and Takayama disclose the claimed invention except for the limitations of thickness of the metal alloy layer, barrier

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layer and the protective layer to be approximately 2500°A, 100°A and 1200°A respectively. Takayama discloses (page 4 line47) Al alloy thin layer together with anodically oxidized film having a thickness of 4000°A or less. The total thickness of the multi-layer electrode as claimed in 49,51 and 53 is approximately 3800°A. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the values of the thickness of the metal alloy layer and protective layer, since discovering an optimum value of a result variable is considered within the skills of the art.

Regarding claim 54, the Examiner notes that the claim limitation that "the multi-layer electrode is etched using a wet etchant with volume percentages of constituents of approximately 70-80 percent H_3PO_4 ; approximately 10-15 percent HNO_3 ; approximately 7-12 percent CH_3COOH and approximately 2-8 percent H_2O to form desired sloped profile " is drawn to a process of manufacturing which is incidental to the claimed apparatus. It is well established that a claimed apparatus cannot be distinguished over the prior art by a process limitation. Consequently, absent a showing of an unobvious difference between the claimed product and the prior art, the subject product-by-process claim limitation is not afforded patentable weight (see MPEP 2113). Therefore, it is the position of the examiner that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the multi-layer electrode disclosed by Chakvorty et al. and Takayama is at

least a fully functional equivalent to the Applicant's claimed multi layer electrode as evidenced by claim 54.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 24, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicants' argument that Chakvorty et al. in combination with Takayama do not suggest a metal alloy layer that is comprised of neodymium having a concentration of between three and six atomic percent the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Takayama discloses (page 4 lines 5,6, 10,11,35-38 Table 2 line 14) aluminum-based alloy electrode material substantially comprising Al and neodymium (one element selected from a group consisting of rare-earth elements) in an amount of 3 atomic percent as claimed in the amended claims 20 and 47.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sikha Roy whose telephone number is (703) 308-2826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimeshkumar D. Patel can be reached on (703) 305-4794. The fax phone number for the organization is (703) 308-7382.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

S.R.

Sikha Roy
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2879



**ASHOK PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER**